

HCS HB 1605 -- MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DESIGNATIONS

SPONSOR: Schieffer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Committee on Tourism and Natural Resources by a vote of 22 to 0.

This bill designates the first full week of May each year as "Children's Mental Health Week" in the state and citizens are encouraged to participate in activities and events to increase awareness of mental health disorders and the importance of mental health to overall well-being.

The month of October each year is designated as "Mental Health Awareness Month" and the first full week of October each year is designated as "Bipolar Disorder Awareness Week." Citizens are encouraged to participate in activities and events to increase awareness of bipolar disorder and its related symptoms.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that mental illness affects more people than most people are aware of and early diagnosis of a mental illness is an important step to living a fulfilling life. This bill would bring awareness to the signs and symptoms of mental illness.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Schieffer and Cindy Keele, Mental Health Alliance of Missouri.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.